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Attorneys for Defendant
STEVEN M. ROBERTS

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) Case No. 2:20-CR-7-JAM
Plaintiff,)
vs.) STIPULATION AND ORDER RE
STEVEN M. ROBERTS,) VIDEOCONFERENCE FOR CHANGE OF PLEA
Defendant.)
) Date: January 12, 2021
) Time: 9:30 A.M.
) Judge: Hon. John A. Mendez

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED and agreed by and between United States Attorney
McGregor W. Scott, through Assistant United States Attorney Miriam Hinman, counsel for
Plaintiff, and Federal Defender Heather Williams, through Assistant Federal Defender Christina
Sinha, counsel for Mr. Roberts, that for specific reasons, the felony change of plea in this case
cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice and that
videoconferencing may be utilized for the above-captioned change of plea hearing.

The parties specifically stipulate as follows:

1. On March 30, 2020, Chief United States Judge Mueller issued General Order 614,
“Coronavirus Public Emergency Authorizing Video-teleconferencing and
Telephone Conferencing for Criminal Proceedings Under Section 15002 of the
Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act,” which authorizes
the use of videoconferencing – or teleconferencing if videoconference is not

1 reasonably available – in various criminal proceedings, including felony change
2 of plea hearings. On January 4, 2021, General Order 628 extended General Order
3 614 for an additional 90 days.

4 2. The Orders permit the use of videoconferencing for felony change of plea
5 hearings if the following conditions are met:

6 a. The presiding judge in the case finds, for specific reasons, that the
7 plea cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests
8 of justice; and

9 b. The defendant, after consultation with counsel, consents to the use
10 of videoconferencing for the plea.

11 3. For reasons specific to this case – to wit, a resolution that the parties have spent
12 months discussing, which both parties have an interest in binding the other to as
13 soon as possible, especially in light of the length of time that has elapsed since the
14 indictment on January 9, 2020 – the plea cannot be further delayed without
15 serious harm to the interests of justice.

16 Furthermore, defense counsel affirms the following:

17 1. Mr. Roberts, who is out of custody, has had an opportunity to consult with
18 undersigned defense counsel regarding the use of videoconferencing for his
19 change of plea hearing;

20 2. Following such consultation, and having been advised of his right to appear in
21 person for his change of plea hearing, as well as of the ability to waive his
22 personal appearance and appear via videoconference, Mr. Roberts has waived the
23 right to personally appear at the above-captioned hearing, and instead requests to
24 appear via videoconference; and

25 3. If videoconference becomes unavailable, he further consents to appear via
26 teleconference.

27 *The remainder of this page is intentionally blank. Signatures immediately follow.*
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Respectfully submitted,

HEATHER E. WILLIAMS
Federal Defender

Date: January 6, 2021

/s/ Christina Sinha
CHRISTINA SINHA
Assistant Federal Defender
Attorneys for Defendant
STEVEN M. ROBERTS

Date: January 6, 2021

MCGREGOR W. SCOTT
United States Attorney

/s/ Miriam Hinman
MIRIAM HINMAN
Assistant United States Attorney
Attorney for Plaintiff

ORDER

The Court, having received and considered the parties' stipulation, and good cause appearing therefrom, adopts the parties' stipulation in its entirety as its order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 6, 2021

/s/ John A. Mendez

THE HONORABLE JOHN A. MENDEZ
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE